Wages paid to Casual Workers Employed in Government of India

1038. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken by the Central Government to check the exploitation of casual workers employed in Government offices:

(b) whether such casual workers are paid minimum wages on a par with the regular workers employed in the Central Government offices;

(c) if not, what are the reasons for this discrimination; and

(d) whether the Central Government propose to pay the arrears to the casual workers employed in the Government offi ces in the light of judgement in the case of Bhartiya Dak Tar Mazdoor Manch *Vs.* Union of India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Corruption Charges against Officials of NDMC

1039. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently ordered an inquiry into the charges of corruption and inegularies against some officials of the New Delhi Municipal Committee (NDMC);

(b) if so, the details of the corruption charges levelled against the NDMC;

(c) by when the inquiry committee will submit its report to Goveinment; and

(d) what further action Government propose to take against the erring NDMC ials ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) Government have not ordered any inquiry into the charges of corruption and irregularities against the officials of the NDMC. However, some complaints about irregularities in leasing out/allotment of property/land, deposits of funds, infructous expenditure, improper payments to contractors, irregular appointments of NDMC counsel/Legal Advisor, allotment of shop/kiosks, non-prevention of un-authorised construction, use of sub-standard material and poor quality of construction work, wasteful expenditure etc. have been received and the allegations in the complaints are being looked into by the Vigilance Department of Delhi Administration. Further action will be taken under the rules if a *prima facie* case is made out.

Licences for Sale of Fireworks

1040. SHRI J. P. GOYAL:
SHRI SHARAD YADAV;

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have, at. any stage, examined the entire question of issuing licences for'the sale of fireworks on the occasion of Diwali so as to know how far the rules and regulations laid down in this regard are adhered to with a view *to* checking the unlicensed shops coming up in Delhi in flagrant violation of the laws governing the sale of fireworks thereby posing serious fire hazards; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what steps have been taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) A comprehensive circular is issued by the Delhi Police Headquarters each year laying down norms and conditions for issue of temporary licences by the District Deputy Commissioners of Police for storage and sale of fire-works. Strict vigilance is also maintained to detect violations. 14 cases of violation of the provisions of the Pxplosive Act and Rules were detected during surprise checks on the eve of Diwali and Dussehra this year and 14 persons were arrested.